

*Observations of Oncometopia orbona (Fabricius)
Migration (Homoptera: Cicadellidae)*

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ABSTRACT

The leafhopper *Oncometopia orbona* (Fabricius) was observed migrating from the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay, at Sandypoint State Park, to the eastern shore of the Bay on October 14, 1973.

While on a fishing trip to Sandy Point State Park, Maryland, on October 14, 1973, my daughter, Lynn Davidson, and I made the following observations on *Oncometopia orbona* (Fabricius).

We arrived at the park about 1:00 p.m. The park is on the west side of the Chesapeake Bay just north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. It was a sunny day with the temperature about 75°F and wind from the west at 10–15 miles per hour. We parked near the beach beside 2 red maple trees about 30 feet tall. As we walked past the trees toward the water, we noticed what at first appeared to be a swarm of bees flying on the lee side of each tree. On closer inspection they proved to be leafhoppers. Forty specimens were collected and later determined to be *Oncometopia orbona* (Fabricius). This species is often found in collections with the preoccupied name *Oncometopia undata* (Fabricius).

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We left the leafhoppers and walked about 200 yards across open sand to the water and began fishing. As the day wore on, we began noticing these leafhoppers flying about on the sand near the water. Slowly their numbers increased until they were landing in swarms on the lee side of any object near the water's edge, apparently seeking protection from the wind. They were quite annoying and several people left the beach because of their activity.

About 4:00 p.m. the wind subsided and the leafhoppers were seen flying from the water's edge in what looked like loose swarms across the bay. They flew facing the wind, but allowed the wind to carry them eastward.

We left the park about 5:00 p.m. and as we passed the 2 maple trees at the parking lot, we noticed the leafhoppers were gone.

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